Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00
AID-05 HA-05 /086 W
----------073321 050654Z /15
O R 050512Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9606
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

UNCLAS DACCA 3548

PARIS FOR TONER, BANGLADESH AID CONSORTIUM MEETING

CINCPAC FOR POLD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT BG
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: BIG WIN FOR ZIA

1. WITH ALL BUT 63 OF THE 21,535 POLLING STATIONS HAVING REPORTED, PRESIDENT ZIA HAS RECEIVED OVER 15,765,000 VOTES WHILE GENERAL OSMANI HAS POLLED ABOUT 4,449,000 VOTES, MAKING ZIA'S VICTORY PERCENTAGE ABOUT 77 PERCENT AND OSMANI'S PERCENTAGE ABOUT 22 WITH THE REMAINDER DIVIDED AMONG THE OTHER EIGHT CONTESTANTS. VOTER TURNOUT WAS ABOUT 54 PER CENT IN WHAT WAS AN ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL ELCTION.

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2. A TENTATIVE LOOK AT THE DISTRICT-BY-DISTRICT VOTING PATTERNS INDICATES THAT WHILE ZIA CARRIED EACH, HIS MARGIN WAS GREATEST IN THE NORTHERN DESTRICTS OF RAJSHAHI AND BOGRA, WHERE HIS PERCENTAGE WAS OVER NINETY PERCENT. HIS LOWEST PERCENTAGE (ABOUT 56 PER CENT) WAS IN THE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT OF SYLHET, WHICH IS OSMANI'S HOME DISTRICT. OSMANI MADE HIS ONLY OTHER RELATIVELY STRONG

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SHOWING IN FARIDPUR, SHEIKH MUJIB'S HOME DISTRICT, WITH
ABOUT 37 PER CENT. OSMANI DID NOT DO WELL IN DACCA DISTRICT,
GETTING ONLY ABOUT 14 PER CENT OF THE VOTE.

3. AT A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY (JUNE 4), ZIA TOLD
NEWSMEN THAT THE PEACEFUL POLLING INDICATED THAT BANGLADESH
WAS NOW A MORE "MATURE" NATION AND THAT OTHER THIRD WORLD
COUNTRIES COULD TAKE A LESSON FROM THE ORDERLY ELECTION.
ZIA SAID HIS VICTORY BROUGHT HIM GREATER RESPONSIBILITY AND
HE WOULD NOW "ADDRESS HIMSELF MORE DETERMINEDLY" TO THE
PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY. HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE PROMISED
DECEMBER PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT A
NEW SYSTEM SHOULD BE EVOLVED "TO ENSURE MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION
OF THE PEOPLE" IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS. GENERAL OSMANI ISSUED A
STATEMENT YESTERDAY THANKING HIS SUPPORTERS FOR WORKING
"DESPITE THREATS, COERCION AND AN UNFAVORABLE SITUATION."
HE SAID THAT THEIR WORK HAD NOT GONE IN VAIN. HE EXPRESSED
CONCERN OVER "ARRESTS AND ATTACKS" ON WORKERS SUPPORTING HIM.

4. ANALYSIS FOLLOWS SEPTEL.
SCHNEIDER

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